

Buddhist Tapestry 2005



Buddhist Prayer

May all beings everywhere plagued
with sufferings of body and mind
quickly be freed from their illnesses.
May those frightened cease to be afraid,
and may those bound be free.
May the powerless find power,
and may people think of
befriending one another.
May those who find themselves
in trackless, fearful wilderness-
the children, the aged, the unprotected-
be guarded by beneficial celestials,
and may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.



There are an enormous number of symbols in the long history of Buddhism.
Represented on this tapestry include:

the Buddha	32 marks of a great being
Bell & Dorje	female and male, wisdom
Bodhi tree	under which Buddha won enlightenment
Bumpa (vase)	contains the nectar of immortality
Chhatraratna	(sacred parasol) protection from the miseries of Samsara (the cycle of life)
Conch Shell	proclaims the teachings of the enlightened ones
Deer	Buddha's first teachings were at Deer Park in Sanath, India
Dharmachakra	(Dharma wheel) spiritual law
Footprint	reminder of the Buddha's presence on earth
Four gates	What Sidhartha saw when leaving the palace: sickness, old age, death and an ascetic
Golden Fish	happiness, fruitfulness
Knot of Eternity	intertwining of wisdom and compassion, the meditative mind
Lotus	purity, spiritual unfoldment, enlightenment
Red and gold	the colors of robes of two major branches of Buddhism, Theravada and Mahayana
Stupa	the enlightend mind of the Buddha
Victory Banner	the victory of Buddhism over greed, hatred & delusion